

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Hamzy Opposes New Mandate On Local School Districts**



A bill approved Wednesday by the state House of Representatives that would ban the sale of some snacks and soft drinks in Connecticut's public schools while requiring them to set aside at least 20 minutes per day for recess is another example of a state mandate that further erodes the authority of local Boards of Education to set priorities for their school districts, state Representative William A. Hamzy, R-78th District, said today.

The measure (Senate Bill 1309) would prohibit the sale of candy, sodas, and other snacks from school vending machines and require schools to set aside 20 minutes per school day to enable students in kindergarten through grade five to engage in physical exercise, Representative Hamzy said.

"This is another mandate being forced on Connecticut school districts by a state legislature dominated by members who do not trust local school boards to do what is right for our children," Representative Hamzy said. "These new mandates improperly intrude on the prerogatives of elected Boards of Education, who are most familiar with local concerns and conditions and are best-qualified to make decisions on matters that directly affect students, parents, teachers and administrators."

"Decisions on matters like these should be left to local school boards who set priorities based on the input they receive from parents, students, teachers and school administrators. 'Big Brother' in Hartford should not dictate them. We trust local boards of education to make decisions about curriculum but we apparently don't trust them to decide which foods are good for our children and which ones are not. It's idiotic," Representative Hamzy said.

The legislation was returned to the State Senate for reconsideration after the House amended it Wednesday. The Senate approved an earlier version of the bill April 27th. Both chambers must agree on a final draft before it can go to Governor M. Jodi Rell to be signed into law.